

Mr. CUMMINGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.

GUN AMNESTY ON MOTHER'S DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, Members are coming to the floor as we approach Mother's Day. I am coming as well. Many mark Mother's Day in their own ways, very diverse ways. But if we ask the mothers of the Nation what would they most want for Mother's Day, the choice of many would be gun safety legislation to protect their children. The proof, of course, is that 2 years ago on Mother's Day, almost a million mothers and their families used Mother's Day to come to their Nation's capital to work productively for just such legislation. We do not yet have the gun safety legislation for our children these mothers so desperately wanted, but in recognition of Mother's Day this year, I thought that it would behoove me to introduce a realistic piece of gun safety legislation, recognizing that in many ways this issue has been off the radar screen, to find a way to put it back on the national agenda. And so I have introduced the Nationwide Gun Back Act of 2002.

Mr. Speaker, hopefully this is the kind of gun safety legislation everyone can join in, whether pro or anti so-called gun control, because this is simply about how to help people voluntarily get illegal guns out of their own homes, and jurisdictions would, of course, participate only voluntarily.

My bill would provide \$100 million in Federal funds, a real pittance in our budget, to allow cities across the United States, small towns, counties, to do gun buy-backs of the kind that were done so successfully just a few years ago in the District of Columbia and in other parts of the country.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms would evaluate the proposals and distribute the funds. A jurisdiction would have to certify that it was capable of destroying the guns within 30 days of running an amnesty program, and of being fully capable of conducting such a buy-back program.

Let me tell Members why I think all Members would want to be for this. There are throughout this Nation millions of people who know there are illegal guns in their homes who cannot come forward to get rid of them without implicating a relative. They fear if they came forward and said take this gun out of my house before some relative uses it on another relative, or somebody commits suicide, they cannot come forward without implicating a son, a daughter, a grandson, and so they sit there knowing that gun is in the house and unable to get rid of it.

I want to say to those folks who want to get that gun out of the home, a gun

illegally there, a gun for which there is no license, we will buy back the gun, usually for \$50 or \$100 to encourage people to come out.

We did this in the District of Columbia; enormous success. Long lines. More than 6,000 firearms were turned in in three buy-backs. Not only did we do this in the District of Columbia, a number of other cities across the United States did the same thing. We did a kind of pilot program that showed that it could work. The notion that there would be hundreds of people standing in line waiting to give a gun to the cops is, I think, what all of America would like to see when it comes to gun safety for our children.

It is children, as we see, who get hold of these guns, who want these guns, who use these guns because that is a child-like thing to do. We need to get these guns out of our homes. After using almost \$400,000 in forfeiture money, some HUD money, we had to stop collecting the guns because we no longer had funds to buy back the guns, for goodness sake, on Mother's Day.

If we want to do something to keep youngsters from getting hold of guns, going into the classroom and shooting at teachers and students, doing God knows what with guns, let us find a noncontroversial way of reducing gun violence. This, it seems to me, is just that way. It simply says wherever Members stand on guns, they are for guns being only in the hands of those people authorized to carry them. If a mother or father sees a gun brought into their home by a kid, allow that family member to get rid of that gun. This is the way that I would celebrate Mother's Day.

HONORING MOTHER ON MOTHER'S DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon to join with my colleagues in celebration of Mother's Day. I particularly want to celebrate my mother. Yesterday was election day in the State of Ohio; and my mother, and she is going to be angry when I do this, who will be 81 years old on April 19, ran for State Central Committee, unopposed, won overwhelmingly.

Mom, here is the campaign literature right here that was sent out on your behalf.

I want to say that I have a wonderful mother and I am so pleased to have the opportunity to celebrate Mother's Day with her this coming weekend. She has been a guiding light and beacon in the lives of me and my family, not only my two sisters, one who lives in California and one who lives in Cleveland, but my husband's family as well.

I want to say to Mary Elizabeth Tubbs, my mom, happy Mother's Day. I am counting on you to stand up on behalf of all of the 21st Senate District as

the Democrat Central Committee woman in the State of Ohio.

After learning all of these wonderful things from my mother, I have to take a moment and say I am pleased to be a mother as well. Yesterday my man child, Mervyn LeRoy Jones, II, 18 years old, and a senior at Shaker Heights High School said, "Mom, I have a great Mother's Day present for you, but it will be early."

I said, "What is it?"

He said, "I am going to take you to school."

I said, "That is good. What are we going to do in school?"

He said, "You and I are going to recite poetry together."

He knew that I liked poetry a whole lot. We go to the class, which is poetry writing, and I have a favorite woman poet whose name is Mona Lake Jones. Mona Lake Jones has written a lot of culturally sensitive poetry, and one piece is called "Being the Mother of a Black Child: It Ain't No Easy Thing."

So my son and I recited this piece of poetry together. It goes on to say being the mother of a black child, it ain't no easy thing, it makes you call on Jesus, and listen to the angels sing.

Mervyn and I alternated these verses together. The topping on my Sunday was at the end Mervyn said to his class, I brought my mother to school today. And he said, "You know, Mom, I am not going to have any money on Sunday, but I knew how much you liked poetry so this is your Mother's Day present; I recited poetry with you in poetry class."

Mr. Speaker, I want to celebrate and trust that other mothers around this country have wonderful opportunities to celebrate Mother's Day this weekend. Those whose mothers have passed on, or whose children have passed on, step back and remember some of the great memories and times you had together, and think about how blessed you are to have been a mother or a daughter or son, or to have someone who cared as much as mothers care for you.

PAYING TRIBUTE ON MOTHER'S DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I too rise on this occasion of Mother's Day weekend to pay tribute to those who bring to life and nurture and educate the children, the families of our communities and our world, and as my dear colleague, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES) so eloquently stated in the prior Special Order, when we think about it, mothers have the most important role in the world because they create the love that holds, the center that holds their families together. I think that their idealism helps inspire the world every day, not in big measures always, but in smaller signs of love and affection.